

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 3-8 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Oochi, et al. reference (US Patent Appln. Publication No. 2005/0179779) taken in view of the Kozai reference (JP 2001-076891). Claim 2 has been rejected also under 35 USC 103(a) based on the latter two references taken with the Kurokawa patent (US Patent No. 6,426,775). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's claim 1 has been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, amended claim 1 now recites an imaging device, comprising: a mode setting member which allows a plurality of shooting modes to be set; a first trigger member for shooting still images; a second trigger member for shooting motion images, the second trigger member being different from the first trigger member; a first light emitter configured to be able to emit light when shooting a still image and when shooting motion images; and a second light emitter configured to emit light when shooting a still image and not to emit light when shooting motion images, the second light emitter being provided on a member which is different from a member on which the first light emitter is provided, wherein the mode setting member allows at least a first shooting mode and a second shooting mode to be set, the first shooting mode shoots a still image by causing the first light emitter to emit light continuously when a first operation signal from the first trigger member is detected and causing the first light emitter to stop emitting light and causing the second light emitter to emit light when a second operation signal from the first trigger member is detected, and the second shooting mode, upon detecting an operation signal from the second trigger member, performs shooting motion images while

causing the first light emitter to keep emitting light continuously. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

More particularly amended claim 1 clarifies the features of the invention as follows:

1. The imaging device comprises a first light emitter configured to be able to emit light when shooting a still image and when shooting motion images; and a second light emitter configured to emit light when shooting a still image and not to emit light when shooting motion images, the second light emitter being provided on a member which is different from a member on which the first light emitter is provided;
2. A first shooting mode shoots a still image by causing the first light emitter to emit light continuously when a first operation signal from a first trigger member different from and a second trigger member is detected and causing the first light emitter to stop emitting light and causing the second light emitter to emit light when a second operation signal from the first trigger member is detected; and
3. A second shooting mode, upon detecting an operation signal from the second trigger member, performs shooting motion images while causing the first light emitter to keep emitting light continuously.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the Oochi, et al. reference discloses a still image digital camera having a normal mode and a low contrast mode. The still image camera includes an auxiliary light 23 and a flash 21 which are used in the low contrast mode and not in the normal mode. In the low contrast mode, when the trigger of the camera is pressed half way and automatic focusing is to occur, the auxiliary light 23 is turned on, while the flash 21 remains off. After automatic focusing is completed, the camera turns off the auxiliary light 23 and awaits the full compression of the trigger. When this occurs, the flash 21 is flashed during the shutter operation.

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The Oochi, et al. patent, therefore, discloses a camera with a single trigger which operates an auxiliary light 23 and a flash 21 for still image photography during a low contrast mode so that so that auxiliary light comes on during auto-focusing and then turns off and the flash subsequently flashes when the shutter is opened and closed. The reference, therefore, does not teach or suggest first and second trigger members where, the second trigger member is different from the first trigger member.

Nor does the reference teach or suggest a first light emitter configured to be able to emit light when shooting a still image and when shooting motion images and a second light emitter configured to emit light when shooting a still image and not to emit light when shooting motion images, the second light emitter being provided on a member which is different from a member on which the first light emitter is provided. Furthermore, the reference cannot teach or suggest a first shooting mode and a second shooting mode to be set, the first shooting mode shoots a still image by causing the first light emitter to emit light continuously when a first operation signal from the first trigger member is detected and causing the first light emitter to stop emitting light and causing the second light emitter to emit light when a second operation signal from the first trigger member is detected, and the second shooting mode, upon detecting an operation signal from the second trigger member, performs shooting motion images while causing the first light emitter to keep emitting light continuously.

As previously mentioned in the Oochi, et al, reference, there is only a single trigger and normal and low contrast modes for still image photography. There is no second trigger different from the first trigger nor a mode for shooting moving images. Moreover, the auxiliary light 23 and flash 21 are only shown schematically and there is no teaching or suggestion that they are provided on different members. Applicant's amended claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 thus

patentably distinguish over the Oochi, et al. reference.

The Kozai reference teaches a camera having static and animated picture modes and a single strobe light. The reference further teaches that the single strobe light is controlled to provide high luminance strobe light in the static picture mode and low luminance continuous light in the animated picture mode. The reference also teaches these modes are based on the action of the photographer but makes no mention of a trigger or triggers nor the locations of these triggers.

The Kozai reference thus fails to teach or suggest a first trigger member for shooting still images; a second trigger member for shooting motion images, the second trigger member being different from the first trigger member; a first light emitter configured to be able to emit light when shooting a still image and when shooting motion images; and a second light emitter configured to emit light when shooting a still image and not to emit light when shooting motion images, the second light emitter being provided on a member which is different from a member on which the first light emitter is provided, wherein the mode setting member allows at least a first shooting mode and a second shooting mode to be set, the first shooting mode shoots a still image by causing the first light emitter to emit light continuously when a first operation signal from the first trigger member is detected and causing the first light emitter to stop emitting light and causing the second light emitter to emit light when a second operation signal from the first trigger member is detected, and the second shooting mode, upon detecting an operation signal from the second trigger member, performs shooting motion images while causing the first light emitter to keep emitting light continuously. Applicant's amended claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 thus patentably distinguish over the Kozai reference

The Examiner has argued that the combination of the Oochi, et al. and Kozai references would result in applicant's claimed invention. Applicant disagrees.

As indicated above, neither reference teaches or suggests the use of first and second triggers for shooting still and moving images, respectively, nor that the second trigger be different from the first trigger member. The Oochi, et al. reference teaches a sole trigger and Kozai reference does not mention triggers at all.

Nor do the references teach or suggest a first light emitter configured to be able to emit light when shooting a still image and when shooting motion images; and a second light emitter configured to emit light when shooting a still image and not to emit light when shooting motion images, the second light emitter being provided on a member which is different from a member on which the first light emitter is provided. In the Oochi, et al. reference an auxiliary light and a flash are taught but these only operate in a still image mode. In the Kozai reference a single strobe light is taught and it operates during still and motion photography.

Finally, it follows from the above that the references cannot teach or suggest the first shooting mode shoots a still image by causing the first light emitter to emit light continuously when a first operation signal from the first trigger member is detected and causing the first light emitter to stop emitting light and causing the second light emitter to emit light when a second operation signal from the first trigger member is detected, and the second shooting mode, upon detecting an operation signal from the second trigger member, performs shooting motion images while causing the first light emitter to keep emitting light continuously.

Applicant's amended claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 thus patentably distinguish over the combination of the Oochi, et al. and Kozai references. The Kurokawa patent adds nothing to the Oochi, et al. and Kozai references to change this conclusion.

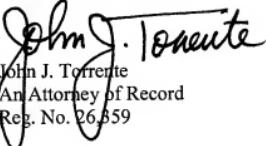
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is

respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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